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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
LUFKIN DIVISION

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
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UNITED STATES, *ex rel.*  
HARROLD E. (GENE) WRIGHT,

Plaintiffs,

v.

AGIP PETROLEUM CO. *et al.*,

Defendants.

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C.A. No. 9:98CV30  
(consolidated case)

JUDGE JOHN H. HANNAH, JR.

UNDER SEAL

ORDER

SEALED  
UNSEALED

Pursuant to the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3730(b)(7), the United States has (1) elected to intervene and proceed with this action as to the following three groups of affiliated defendants: (i) the Mobil group of affiliated defendants: Mobil Oil Corporation, Mobil Oil Exploration and Production, Mobil Oil Exploration & Producing North America, Inc., Mobil Producing Texas & New Mexico, Inc. and Mobil Oil Exploration and Producing Southeast, Inc., (ii) the Meridian group of affiliate defendants: Meridian Oil, Inc. and Meridian Oil Production, Inc. and (iii) the Shell group of affiliated defendants: Shell Oil Company, Shell Consolidated Energy Resources, Inc., Shell Frontier Oil & Gas, Inc., Shell Gas Pipeline Company, Shell Land & Energy Company, Shell Offshore, Inc., Shell Pipeline Corporation and Shell Western E&P Inc.; (2) elected to decline to intervene as to 111 defendants and (3) notified the Court that it is neither electing to intervene nor declining to intervene as to certain defendants.

The United States has requested that the Second Amended Original Complaint and the Notice of United States' Intervention Decision be unsealed and served on the defendants. The United States has further requested that all prior filings in this case remain sealed, and that they not be served on defendants or otherwise made public.

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As to those defendants as to which the United States has not yet made an election to intervene and those as to which the United States has declined to intervene, the United States has requested that, should either the relators or the defendants propose that this action be dismissed, settled, or otherwise discontinued, this Court solicit the written consent of the United States before ruling or granting its approval. Furthermore, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730(c)(3), the United States has requested that all pleadings filed in this action be served upon the United States.

The requests of the United States are **GRANTED**. Accordingly, the Court hereby orders the following:

(1) this case shall be unsealed as to this Order and filings or pleadings submitted after the date of this Order;

(2) the Second Amended Original Complaint and the Notice of United States' Intervention Decision shall be unsealed and shall be served on the defendants and the relators;

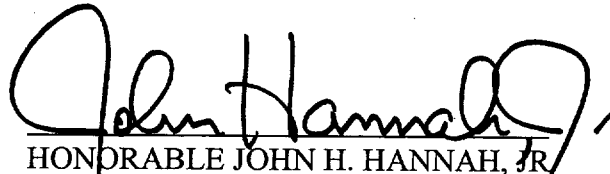
(3) all contents of the Court's file in this matter which were filed prior to the date of this Order and which are not named in paragraph 2 above shall remain sealed, and shall not be served on the defendants or otherwise made public;

(4) the United States shall have sixty days from the date of this Order to file its own complaint;

(5) henceforth the parties shall serve all pleadings and motions filed in this action, including supporting memoranda, upon the United States, as provided for in 31 U.S.C. § 3730(C)(3). The United States may order any deposition transcripts and is entitled to intervene in this action as to those defendants as to which the United States has not yet made an intervention decision and as to those defendants as to which it has declined to intervene, for good cause, at any time. Should the

relators or the defendants propose that this action be dismissed, settled, or otherwise discontinued as to those defendants as to which the United States has not yet made an intervention decision or as to which the United States has declined to intervene, the Court will solicit the written consent of the United States before ruling or granting its approval.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2000.

  
HONORABLE JOHN H. HANNAH, JR.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE